MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

RELEASED: AUGUST 2004

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 8

This Issue:

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA– Commercial red meat production during June 2004 totaled 300,000 pounds. This was 6 percent below May 2004 and 9 percent below June 2003 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 351,000 pounds live weight, down 6 percent from June 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 300 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,060 pounds, was up 75 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 127,000 pounds live weight, down 14 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 236 pounds, was down 6 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES-Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in June, down 1 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in June 2003.

Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.99 million head, down 8 percent from June 2003. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.4 million pounds, 11 percent below June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 66,400 head, down 10 percent from June 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds above last year, at 338 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.67 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year, and set a monthly record high. Hog kill totaled 8.50 million head, 10 percent above June 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds below the previous year, at 264 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.5 million pounds, was up 2 percent from June 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 230,900 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 1 pounds from June a year ago.

January to June 2004 commercial red meat production was 22.3 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 8 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

June 2003 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. **June 2004** contained 22 weekdays (including one special holiday declared by the federal government for President Reagan's funeral) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

June Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.27 billion during June 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.20 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 54.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2004 averaged 342 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,126 eggs, up slightly from June 2003.

June 2004 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays, compared to **June 2003** which contained 21 weekdays and 4 Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.25 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2004, averaged 71.3 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.79 billion eggs during June 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during June, at 319 million, was up 2 percent from a year ago.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States are as follows: AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IL, IN, IA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, and WI and account for approximately 94 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 4 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during June totaled 38.1 million, up 4 percent from June 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 36.1 million on July 1, 2004, up 12 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 212,000 during June 2004, down 31 percent from June 2003.

Broiler Hatch Up 1 Percent

The June 2004 **hatch of broiler-type chicks**, at 786 million, was up 1 percent from June of the previous year. There were 659 million eggs in incubators on July 1, 2004, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.7 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during June 2004, down slightly from June 2003.

AUGUST CROP PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- Tobacco production is forecast at 1.95 million pounds, up 25 percent from the 2003 crop. The area harvested is expected to total 1,300 acres, up 100 acres from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, the average yield per acre is forecast at 1,500 pounds, up 200 pounds from 2003.

All Other Hay production is forecast at 988 thousand tons, up 4 percent from 2003. The area harvested is expected to total 520,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from 2003. Average yield per acre is forecast at 1.9 tons, unchanged from 2003.

Based on August 1 conditions, **apple** production is forecast at 85 million pounds, down 2 percent or 2 million pounds from 2003.

Peach production of 12.0 million pounds is carried forward from the July forecast.

UNITED STATES WITH 2003 COMPARISONS

– Corn for grain production - 10.9 billion bushels, up 8 percent, largest on record.
– Corn yield - 148.9 bushels per acre, up 6.7 bushels, largest on record.
– Oats production - 128 million bushels, down 12 percent.
– Winter wheat production - 1.49 billion bushels, down 13 percent.
– Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures hay production - 77.3 million tons, up 1 percent.
– Other hay production - 84.5 million tons, up 5 percent.
– Apple production - 9.37 billion pounds, up 9 percent.
– Peach production (Including Clingstone) - 2.60 billion pounds, up 3 percent.
– Peach production (Excluding Clingstone) - 1.45 billion pounds, unchanged.
– All tobacco production - 885 million pounds, up 10 percent.
– Burley tobacco production - 298 million pounds, up 6 percent.
– Soybean production - 2.88 billion bushels, up 19 percent, second largest on record.
– Barley production - 273 million bushels, down 1 percent.

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES

Agricultural Land Values Highlights

WEST VIRGINIA--Farm real estate values, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged $1,500 per acre on January 1, 2004, up 7.1 percent from 2003.

Cropland and pasture values rose by 7.3 and 6.7, respectively, from January 1, 2003. Cropland values averaged $2,200 per acre and pasture values averaged $1,280 per acre on January 1, 2004, compared with $2,050 and $1,200 per acre, respectively, a year earlier.

UNITED STATES--Farm real estate values averaged $1,360 per acre on January 1, 2004, up 7.1 percent from 2003. This is the largest percentage increase since 1994, when farm real estate values rose 8.0 percent from the previous year. The $90 per acre increase is the largest dollar increase since 1980, when values climbed $109 per acre above the 1979 value.

Cropland and pasture values rose by 7.2 and 6.4 percent, respectively, from January 1, 2003. Cropland values averaged $1,780 per acre and pasture values averaged $644 per acre on January 1, 2004, compared with $1,660 and $605 per acre, respectively, a year earlier. The value of other land and buildings rose 7.5 percent.

The increase in farm real estate values was driven by a combination of factors, including low interest rates, high commodity production and prices, and strong demand for nonagricultural land uses. Nationally, summarized survey data indicated that agricultural land with potential for immediate development (expected land use if sold) was valued at more than $5,700 per acre. The survey also indicated that agricultural land with potential for future development was valued at nearly $4,000 per acre. Demand for farm real estate as an investment continued, but was limited by strong appreciation of alternative investments.

Regional increases in the average value of farm real estate ranged from 5.2 percent in the Mountain region to 10.4 percent in the Lake region. The highest farm real estate values were in the Northeast region, where urban influences drove the average value to $3,400 per acre. In the Corn Belt region, where commodity production and prices were favorable during 2003, farm real estate values rose 8.0 percent, to $2,300 per acre. The Mountain region, with its expanse of pasture and rangeland, has the lowest farm real estate value, at $550 per acre.

Cropland values rose 9.1 percent, to $2,030 per acre, in the Lake region and 8.4 percent, to $2,460 per acre, in the Corn Belt. Together these regions account for nearly one-third of the U.S. total cropland acres. The highest average cropland values, at $3,660 per acre, are in the Pacific region, where a significant portion of the cropland is irrigated.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

Apples and Peaches Highlights

Apples: Nitrogen was applied to 71 percent of the 2003 apple acreage in the following Program States: California, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Nitrogen application ranged from 49 percent of the acres treated in Pennsylvania to 93 percent in North Carolina. Phosphate and potash were applied to 28 and 36 percent of the acreage, respectively. North Carolina, with the second smallest apple acreage amongst the Program States, applied the highest percentage of fertilizer.

Herbicides were applied to 42 percent of the apple acreage, while 94 percent of the acreage received insecticide treatments. Glyphosate was the most commonly used herbicide, with 32 percent of the acres treated. Azinphos-methyl and petroleum distillate were the most commonly applied insecticides at 73 and 63 percent, respectively. Fungicide applications were made to 90 percent of the apple acreage. Myclobutanil continued to be the most commonly applied fungicide at 44 percent. Usage of other chemicals varied widely among the States surveyed. NNA and Dodecadien-1-ol applied to 34 and 25 percent of the acres, respectively, were the most commonly applied.

Peaches: Nitrogen was applied to 87 percent of the peach acreage in the Program States: California, Georgia, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas. Phosphate was applied to 30 percent and potash to 50 percent of the acres. South Carolina applied nitrogen and potash to a higher percent of acres than any other Program State, while Texas applied phosphate at a higher percent of acres than the others. Insecticides were applied to 84 percent of the peach acreage, with Georgia treating their entire crop. Fungicide application was 80 percent, herbicide was 51 percent (with Georgia applying the smallest percentage), and other chemicals were only used on 9 percent of the acreage. Glyphosate, petroleum distillate, and sulfur were the most commonly applied herbicide, insecticide, and fungicide at 32, 43, and 52 percent, respectively. There were three active ingredients e-8-dodecenyl acetat, z-8-dodecanol, and z-8-dodecen acetate for other chemicals, all of which were applied at 16 percent.

CATTLE

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2004, totaled 103.6 million head, down slightly from the 103.9 million on July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below the 105.1 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.5 million, were slightly below the 42.7 million on July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below the 42.9 million two years ago.

Beef cows, at 33.5 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below two years ago.

Milk cows, at 9.0 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2003 and down 2 percent from two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2004 and the changes from July 1, 2003, are as follows:

- **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 15.95 million, up slightly.
- **Beef replacement heifers**, 4.8 million, up 4 percent.
- **Milk replacement heifers**, 3.6 million, unchanged.
- **Other heifers**, 7.55 million, down 2 percent.
- **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.2 million, unchanged.
- **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.05 million, down 2 percent.
- **Calves under 500 pounds**, 28.9 million, down slightly.
- **All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 11.8 million, down slightly.

Calf Crop Down 1 Percent

The 2004 calf crop is expected to be 37.7 million, down 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.5 million, down 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002.

SHEEP

July 1 All Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 2 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2004, totaled 7.65 million head, 2 percent below July 1, 2003. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.55 million head on July 1, 2004 was 1 percent below July 1, 2003. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs) at 3.11 million head, were 3 percent below last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.75 million ewes one year old and older, 180,000 rams one year old and older, and 620,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). **Market lamb** inventory at 3.03 million head was comprised of 1.80 million lambs under 65 pounds, 635,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 355,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 240,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 75,000.

The 2004 Lamb Crop in the United States is expected to total 4.08 million head, down 1 percent from the 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2004 totaled 3.61 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 470,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2004.

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.0 percent of all sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 20.1 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 16.9 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.4 percent, and Region 5 (all other States) accounted for 13.6 percent.

SEPTEMBER AG SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

West Virginia Agricultural Statistics will be conducting the September Agricultural Survey from **August 30 - September 13**. Representatives from our office will be contacting farmers by telephone and personal interview. Interviewers will be collecting data for the 2004 winter wheat crop and grain stocks.

The survey provides information necessary to make objective, reliable, and comprehensive estimates that are essential to an orderly agricultural marketing system, so that informed decisions can be made. Only a sample of farmers in West Virginia will be selected for the survey and those farmers will be notified by mail.

We depend upon the voluntary cooperation of those farmers selected in our sample. A high response rate will ensure that West Virginia agriculture is fully and accurately represented.

The results of this survey will be released on **September 30, after 8:30 a.m.** and will be published in the October edition of the Mountain State Reporter and on our website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/wv.

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Farm Labor

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